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PENSOFT

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Three new species of *Dushinckanus* Brailovsky (Heteroptera, Rhyparochromidae, Myodochini), description of the male of *D. camelopardus* Harrington, and new distributional records for known species

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https://zoobank.org/1A2CA1DA-2EF0-4CE9-88B6-CCDB2A2F90AF

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Abstract

In this contribution, the diagnostic characters of the myodochine genus *Dushinckanus* Brailovsky, 1979 are discussed. The male of *D. camelopardus* Harrington, 1987 is described for the first time, and its distribution is extended north to French Guiana, as is that of *D. ashlocki* Harring, 1987. Additionally, three new species from French Guiana are described. Dorsal habitus and male genitalic photographs are provided and an updated key to separate the species in the genus is given.

Key Words

Hemiptera, Insecta, key, male genitalia, Neotropics

Introduction

The cosmopolitan tribe Myodochini is among the most diverse groups of Rhyparochromidae (Dellapé and Henry 2010), with 89 genera and 377 species worldwide (Dellapé and Henry 2025). Of these, more than 40 genera occur in the Neotropics (Henry et al. 2015; Dellapé et al. 2018; Dellapé and Melo 2020, 2023, 2024). The genus *Dushinckanus* was created by Brailovsky (1979) to include the new species *D. ocellatus* from Brazil, based on two females from Rondonia and a male from Rio de Janeiro. The genus was characterized by the slender postocular region of the head, the protuberant ocelli, the short rostrum not surpassing the mesocoxae, the scape extending beyond the tylus, and the profemur with a few small spines. A few years later, Brailovsky (1981) described a second species, *D. crassicornis* based on two females from Guatemala with conspicuously thickened antennal segments and without protuberant ocelli. Harrington (1987) revised the genus, transferred *D. inermibus* (Distant, 1893) from *Myodocha* Latreille, 1807 and described two new species: *D. camelopardus* based on one female from Ecuador, and *D. ashlocki* from a male paratype of *D. ocellatus*. More recently, Baena (2014) described a new species, *D. riegeri*, from French Guiana based on a single female. Dellapé and Melo (2005) described *D. mesopotamicus* from Entre Rios Province in Argentina, but Dellapé and Melo (2020), after comparing this species with the type species of *Dushinckanus*, transferred it to their new genus, *Shinckadunus*.

We recently had the opportunity to study material of this poorly known and seldom-collected genus preserved in the Museum nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, and the first author was able to examine paratypes of *D. ocellatus* and *D. crassicornis* deposited in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México collection. In this contribution the diagnostic characters of

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the genus are discussed, three new species from French Guiana are described, and the male of *D. camelopardus* is described for the first time. The distribution of *D. camelopardus* and *D. ashlocki* are also extended. Dorsal habitus and male genitalic photographs are provided and an updated key to separate the species of the genus is also given.

Material and methods

Color images were captured using a digital camera (Micrometrics 391CU, 3.2 m) mounted on a Nikon SMZ1000 stereomicroscope. Multiple focal planes were merged using Micrometrics SE Premium 4 software. Acronyms used for institutions cited in the paper are AMNH: American Museum of Natural History, New York, USA; MLP: Museo de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina; MNHN: Museum nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France; UNAM: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City; and USNM: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Measurements are given in millimeters. Type material label data are cited verbatim, with labels separated by "//" and lines on labels separated by "/"; remarks added by the authors are given between brackets '[]'.

Results

Dushinckanus albocinctus sp. nov.

https://zoobank.org/D1590B3F-E6BA-45CC-B3CE-168F39AF6BC8

Figs 1A, 2

Description. Body length 8.50. Head length 1.43, width 1.28, preocular distance 0.68, postocular distance 0.80, interocular distance 0.50, interocellar distance 0.15. Head coriaceous; reddish brown except cylindrical neck and margin of jugum darker; with abundant short decumbent setae. Preocular region of head longer than interocular distance; buccular juncture V-shaped, close to labial insertion, extending into a faint carina; vertex somewhat depressed just before ocelli; ocelli prominent, tuberculate, and antero-laterally directed located just at level of posterior margin of eyes; distance from eye to ocellus subequal to interocellar distance; jugum and gena forming a conspicuous ridge-like carina. Postocular region rounded sloping gradually forming a long stalk-like neck. Antennal length: Scape 1.10, pedicel 1.75, basiflagellomere 1.45, distiflagellomere 1.70. Antenna brownish, except scape reddish brown and distiflagellomere with a large paler band subbasally; with short decumbent setae and scattered short erect setae, more abundant distally. Labial segment lengths: I 1.20, II 1.35, III 1.00, IV 0.35. Labium pale brown, first segment and tip of fourth darker. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.85, width 1.05; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.70, width 1.70. Anterior pronotal lobe, basal half of scutellum, thoracic pleura and sterna dark brown; posterior pronotal lobe brown with two irregular pale maculae; distal half of scutellum brown; hemelytron brown with pattern as fig. 1A; membrane brown except a vein at base and an elongate subapical macula yellowish. Collar, transverse impression and posterior pronotal lobe, scutellum and corium punctate; anterior pronotal lobe impunctate. Pronotum, scutellum and hemelytron with sparse short decumbent setae. Legs: Coxae, protrochanter and profemur brown, metafemur darker distally and rest of legs pale brown; with short decumbent and erect setae, tibiae with bristle-like setae. Profemur with three to four minute spines subapically. Abdomen brown; with abundant short decumbent setae. Males with seventh connexival segment ending in a short spine-like projection; seventh abdominal tergum slightly convex posteriorly; and abdomen with a faint carina along midline, ending in a short spine-like projection at the seventh sternum. Male genitalia: Pygophore (Fig. 2A, B) elongate and pointed in dorsal view, dorsal aperture strongly declivent in lateral view, ventral posterior margin concave in lateral view. Parameres with blade slender, see fig. 2D, E. Aedeagus (Fig. 2C) unspined.

Etymology. The specific name '*albocinctus*' is an adjective meaning 'white-girdled' and is used to denote the pale band of the distiflagellomere of this new species.

Geographic distribution. French Guiana.

Type material. ***Holotype*** • ♂, Guyane: [French Guiana] Itoupé/ 800 m.,/ 30-III-2010,/ A.E.G. leg.// MNHN.

Remarks. The male holotype of this new species is similar in external appearance to specimens of *D. camelopardus* and *D. brailovskyi* sp. nov.; nevertheless, the most reliable character to discriminate the species is the presence of a pale band on the distiflagellomere. This new species also shows a more conspicuous color pattern on hemelytra than *D. brailovskyi* sp. nov., and the pygophore and parameres are quite distinct from these two species. Harrington (1987) mentioned a single female with a broad pale band on the distiflagellomere from the American Museum of Natural History (New York, USA) that she postulated as the sister species of *D. camelopardus*, but she refrained from describing it because the specimen lacked locality data. This specimen could be a female of *D. albocinctus* sp. nov.

Dushinckanus brailovskyi sp. nov.

https://zoobank.org/8B605465-6980-4F41-B674-11C71E8A415B

Figs 1B, 3

Description. Body length 8.50. Head length 2.00, width 1.34, preocular distance 0.56, postocular distance 0.65, interocular distance 0.50, interocellar distance 0.24. Head coriaceous with abundant short decumbent setae. Preocular portion of head subequal to interocular distance; buccular juncture V-shaped, close to labial in-

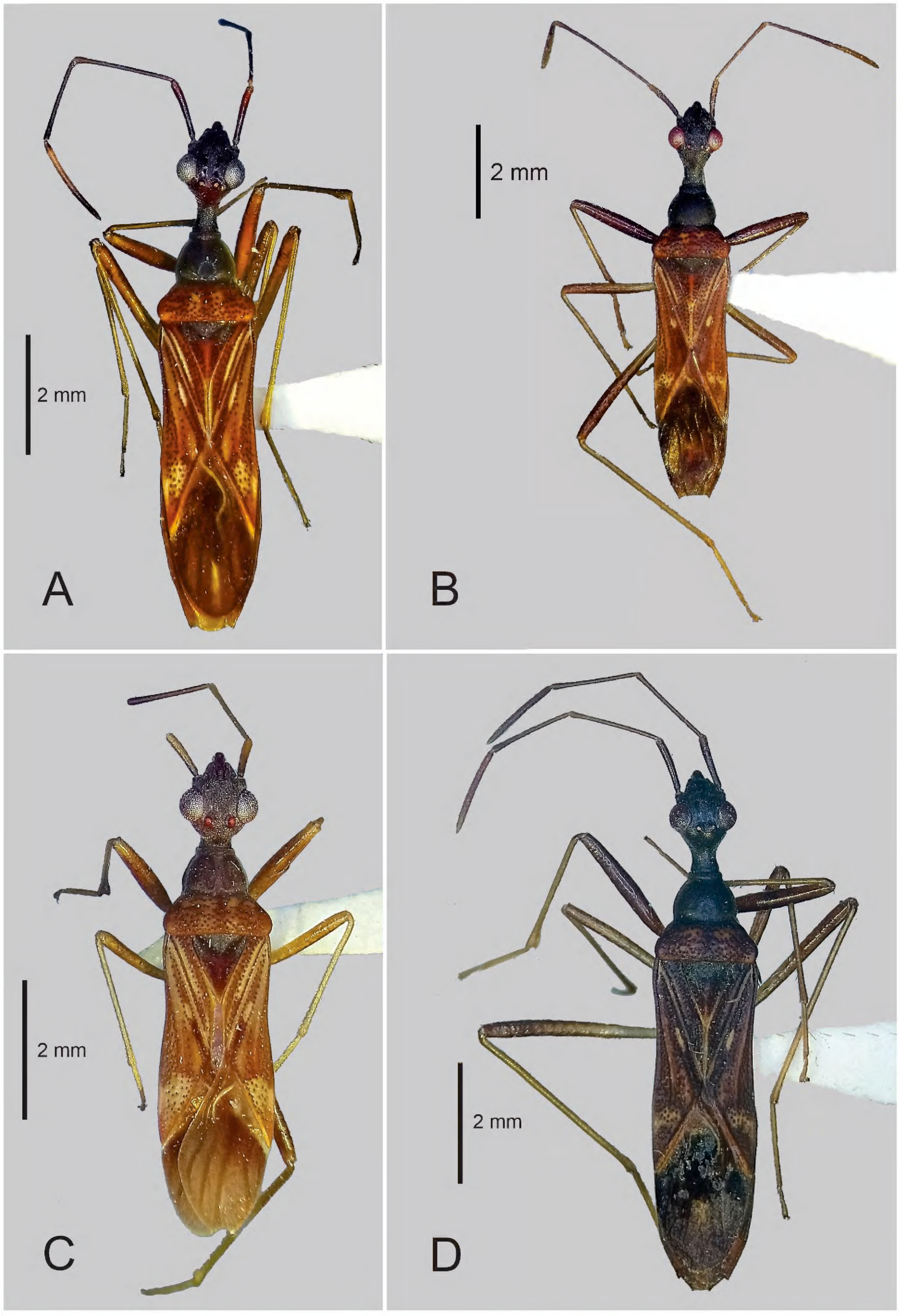

Figure 1. Dorsal habitus of *Dushinckanus* species. **A.** *D. albocinctus* sp. nov.; **B.** *D. brailovskyi* sp. nov.; **C.** *D. ocellatoides* sp. nov.; **D.** *Dushinckanus camelopardus* Harrington, 1987.

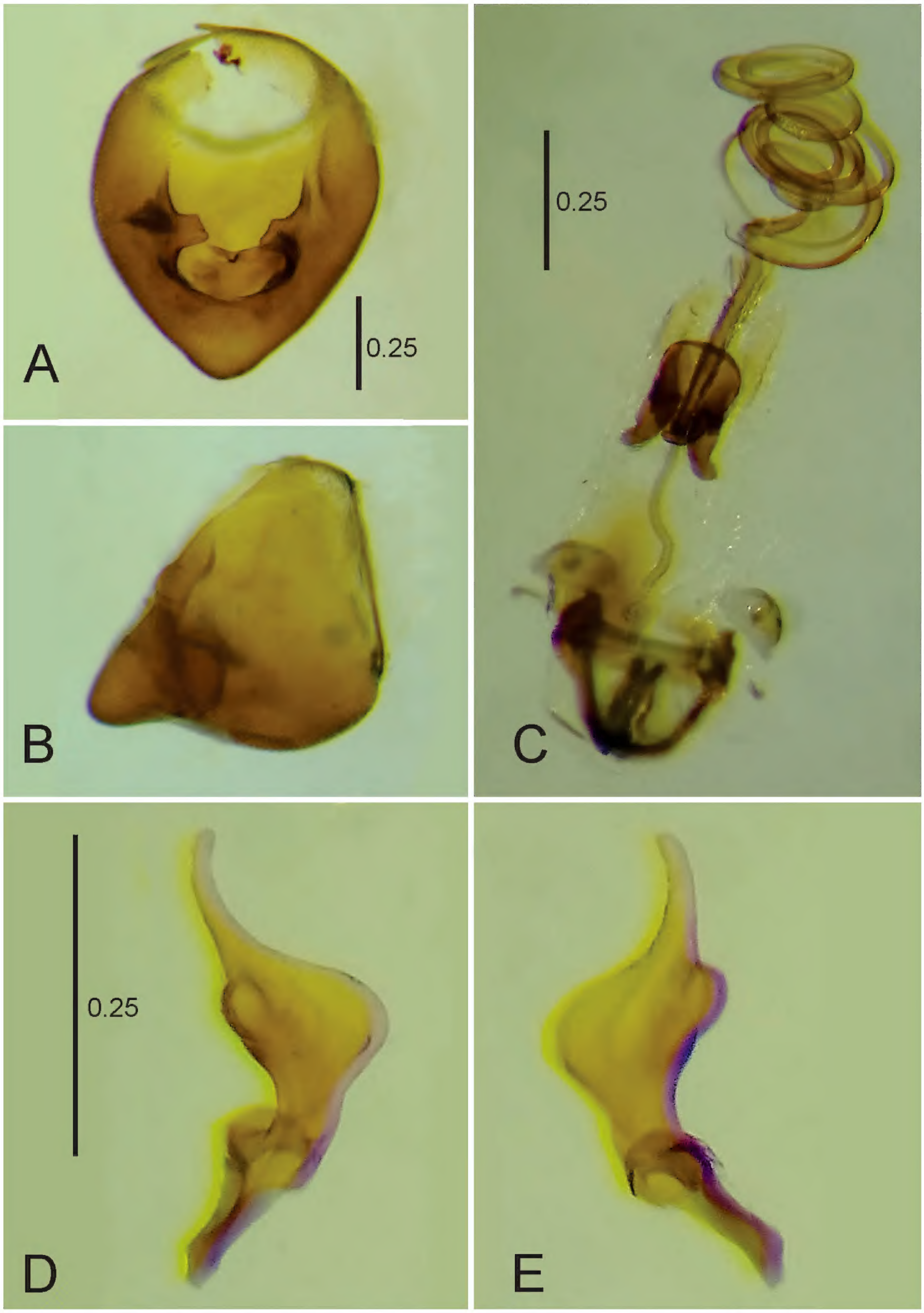

Figure 2. *Dushinckanus albocinctus* sp. nov., male genitalia. **A.** Pygophore, dorsal view; **B.** Pygophore, lateral view; **C.** Aedeagus; **D.** Right paramere, inner view; **E.** Right paramere, outer view.

sertion, extending into a faint carina; vertex somewhat depressed just before ocelli; ocelli slightly tuberculate, located just at level of posterior margin of eyes; distance from eye to ocellus half the interocellar distance; jugum and gena forming a faint ridge-like carina. Postocular region rounded sloping gradually forming a long stalk-like neck. Head, anterior pronotal lobe, basal half of scutellum, base of clavus, thoracic pleura and sterna blackish brown. Antennal length: Scape 0.90, pedicel 1.75, basiflagellomere 1.43, distiflagellomere 1.35. Scape brown, rest of antenna pale brown; distiflagellomere uniformly colored, shorter than basiflagellomere; with short decumbent setae and scattered short erect setae, more abundant distally. Labial segment lengths: I 1.10, II 1.25, III 0.90, IV 0.50. Labium pale brown, first segment and tip of fourth darker. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.85, width 1.10; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.75, width 1.75. Posteror pronotal lobe brown with four irregular pale maculae; distal half of scutellum brown; hemelytron brown with diffuse pattern as fig. 1B; membrane brown, darker than corium and paler basally, veins concolorous. Pronotum, scutellum and hemelytron with sparse, short, decumbent setae. Collar, transverse impression and posterior pronotal lobe, scutellum and corium punctate, anterior pronotal lobe impunctate. Legs: Coxae, protrochanter, profemur, and ca. distal half of meso- and metafemora brown, rest of legs pale brown; with short decumbent setae, tibiae with bristle like setae. Profemur with two to four minute spines subapically. Abdomen brown with irregular darker areas; with abundant short decumbent setae. Male with seventh connexival segment ending in a short spine-like projection; seventh abdominal tergum straight posteriorly; and abdomen with a faint carina along midline, ending in a short projection at the seventh sternum. Male genitalia: Pygophore (Fig. 3A, B) with dorsal aperture slightly declivent in lateral view, ventral posterior margin convex in lateral view. Parameres: see fig. 3D, E. Aedeagus (Fig. 3C) with minute spines posteriorly to the ejaculatory reservoir.

Measurements. **Males** (n = 2). Body length: 8.40/8.50 Head length: 2.00/2.00, width 1.29/1.41, preocular distance 0.65/0.68, postocular distance 0.75/0.85, interocular distance 0.53/0.60, interocellar distance 0.23/0.24. Antennal length: Scape 0.85/0.90, pedicel 1.70/absent, basiflagellomere 1.50/absent, distiflagellomere 1.45/absent. Labial segment lengths: I 1.15/1.15, II 1.25/1.25, III 0.90/absent, IV 0.55/absent. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.85/0.90, width 1.05/1.20; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.70/0.80, width 1.60/1.95.

Female (n = 1). Body length: 9.20. Head length: 2.00, width 1.41, preocular distance 0.65, postocular distance 0.85, interocular distance 0.60, interocellar distance 0.23. Antennal length: Scape 0.85, pedicel 1.70, basiflagellomere 1.50, distiflagellomere 1.45. Labial segment lengths: I 1.15, II 1.25, III absent, IV absent. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.90, width 1.20; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.80, width 1.95.

Etymology. This new species is named after our colleague and friend Dr. Harry Brailovsky, in honor of his many contributions to the study of the Neotropical Lygaeoidea.

Geographic distribution. French Guiana.

Type material. ***Holotype*** • ♂, Guyane: [French Guiana] Itoupé/ 800 m, 24-XI-2009/ SEA/G leg. // MNHN. ***Paratypes*** • ♂, same data as Holotype // Museo de La Plata he-18472; • ♂, Guyane: [French Guiana] Itoupé/ 800 m.,/ 30-III-2010, / A.E.G. leg. // MNHN; • ♀, same data // Museo de La Plata he-18474.

Remarks. The type series of *D. brailovskyi* sp. nov. is similar in external appearance to specimens of *D. camelopardus* and the holotype of *D. albocinctus* sp. nov. Nevertheless, it is best distinguished by the smaller and more separated ocelli, the relatively shorter preocular and a longer postocular region with a longer cylindrical neck, the diffuse coloration pattern on hemelytron that includes a diffuse subapical macula, the shorter and unicolorous distiflagellomere, and the straight posterior margin of abdominal tergum VII.

Dushinckanus ocellatoides sp. nov.

https://zoobank.org/ABDB9E97-6340-4CA1-9ADE-CDC1AC1C8CF4

Figs 1C, 4

Description. Body length 6.96. Head length 1.50, width 1.21, preocular distance 0.55, postocular distance 0.45, interocular distance 0.49, interocellar distance 0.24. Head coriaceous, reddish brown except tylus paler, with abundant short recumbent setae. Buccular juncture V-shaped; vertex somewhat depressed just before ocelli; ocelli prominent, tuberculate, and antero-laterally directed, located just at level of posterior margin of eyes; ocellus much closer to eye than to each other; jugum forming a conspicuous ridge-like carina. Postocular region rounded abruptly constricted into a short neck. Antennal length: Scape 0.82, pedicel 1.35, basiflagellomere 1.32, distiflagellomere missing. Antenna light brown with abundant short semierect setae and scattered short erect setae. Labial segment lengths: I 1.09, II 1.12, III 0.78, IV 0.51. Labium pale brown, first segment and tip of fourth darker, with sparse erect setae, reaching mesocoxae. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.72, width 0.99; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.60, width 1.62. Anterior pronotal lobe, pleurae and scutellum brown, posterior pronotal lobe pale brown with irregular lighter areas; hemelytron brown with pattern as fig. 1C; membrane brown except adjacent margin of corium and a vein at base paler. Collar, transverse impression and posterior pronotal lobe, scutellum except the Y-shaped raised carina and corium punctate; anterior pronotal lobe with a few shallow small punctures. Pronotum, scutellum and hemelytron with sparse, short, recumbent setae.

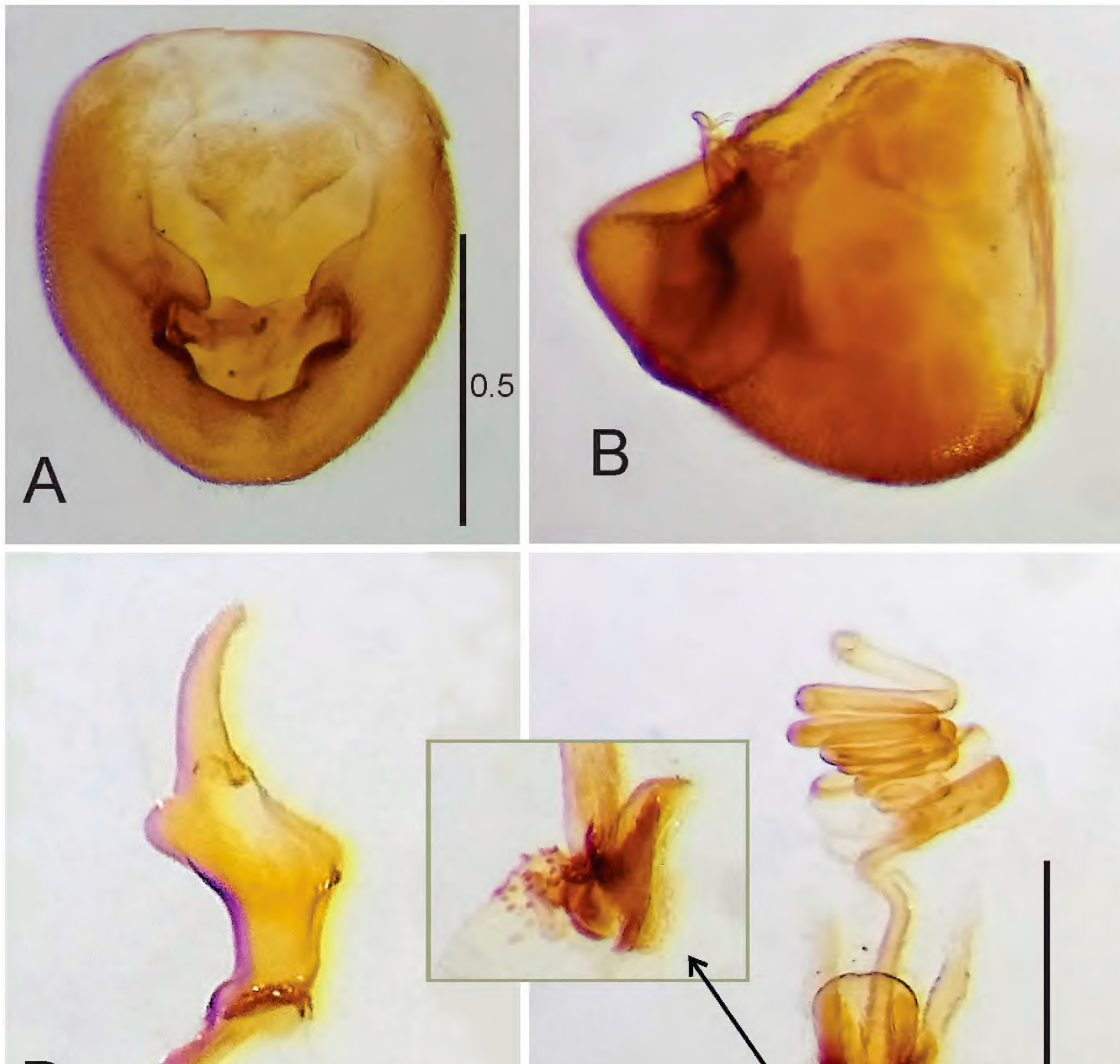

Figure 3. *Dushinckanus brailovskyi* sp. nov., male genitalia. **A.** Pygophore, dorsal view; **B.** Pygophore, lateral view; **C.** Aedeagus; **D.** Right paramere, inner view; **E.** Right paramere, outer view.

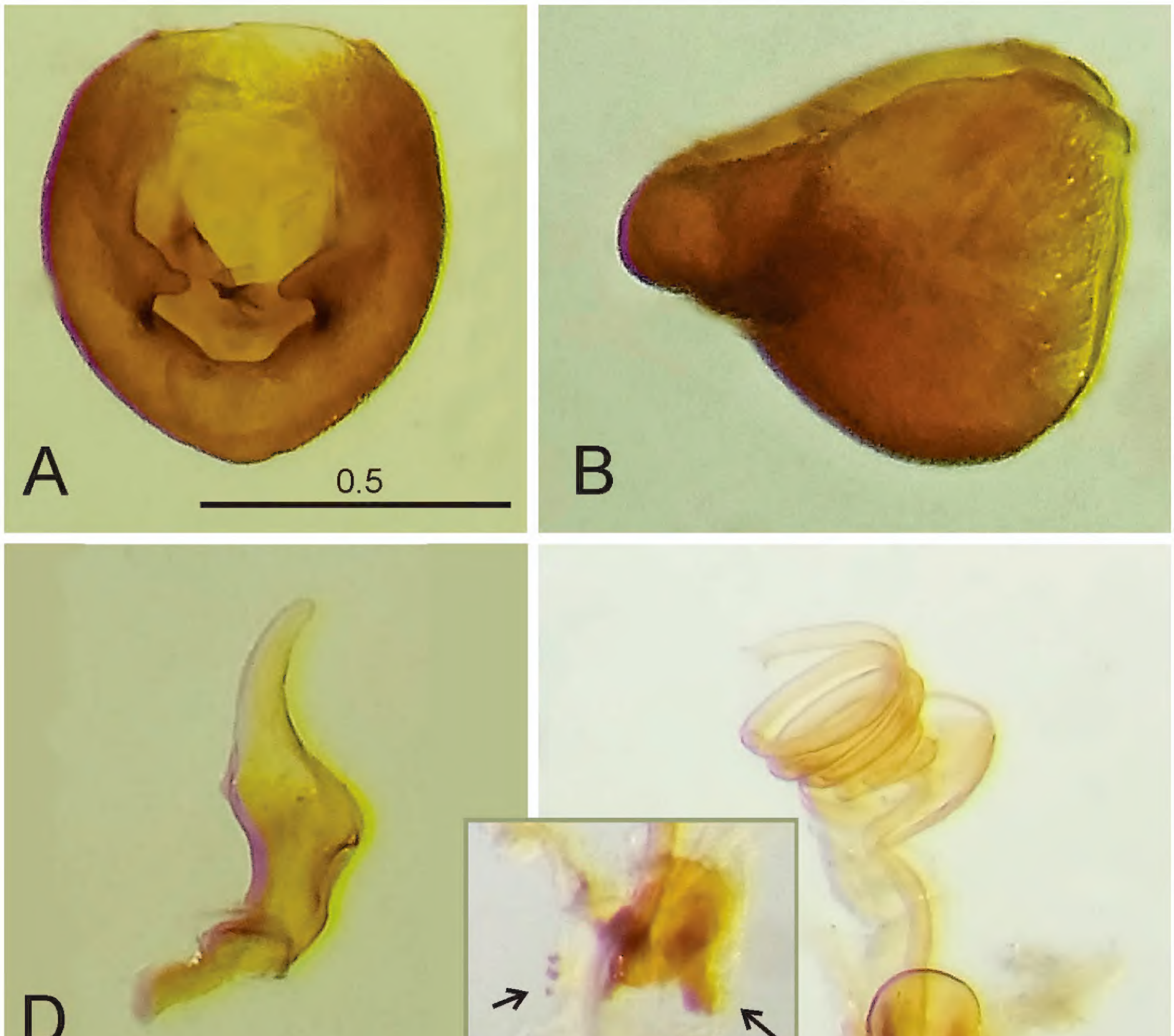

Figure 4. *Dushinckanus ocellatoides* sp. nov., male genitalia. **A.** Pygophore, dorsal view; **B.** Pygophore, lateral view; **C.** Aedeagus; **D.** Right paramere, inner view; **E.** Right paramere, outer view.

Legs: Coxae, protrochanter and profemur brown, rest of legs paler; with sparse, short, erect setae, tibiae with bristle-like setae. Profemur with three to four minute spines subapically. Abdomen brown, connexival area of abdominal segments V–VII and base of trichobothria light brown; with abundant short recumbent setae. Seventh abdominal tergum slightly convex posteriorly. Male genitalia. Pygophore (Fig. 4A, B) dorsal aperture slightly declivent in lateral view, ventral posterior margin concave in lateral view. Paramere blades relatively stout, see fig. 4D, E. Aedeagus (Fig. 4C) with a few small spines posterior to ejaculatory reservoir.

Etymology. The suffix '*oides*' meaning 'like' or 'resemblance to', refers to the similar appearance of this new species to *D. ocellatus*.

Geographic distribution. Brazil.

Type material. ***Holotype*** • ♂, Brazil, Guanabara:/ Represa Rio Grande/ August 1972/ M. Alvarenga (AMNH).

Remarks. This new species is closely related to *D. ocellatus* by its general appearance and the somewhat large ocelli. Harrington (1987), in her revision of the genus *Dushinckanus*, studied a female from Rio the Janeiro that she assigned to *D. ocellatus*. She noted that this specimen has a shorter neck, a less rounded anterior pronotal lobe, and less prominent ocelli than the type specimens, but she considered that the general color pattern, together with the rest of the characters were enough to assign it to *D. ocellatus*. The male holotype of this new species, also from Rio the Janeiro, shows the same characteristics as Harrington´s female, but we consider that these differences are enough to separate it from *D. ocellatus*.

Dushinckanus ashlocki Harrington, 1987

Diagnosis. Postocular region of head shorter than interocular distance; pedicel and basiflagellomere shorter than head width. Pronotum, scutellum, and hemelytra without short and scarce setae. Ocelli small and not tuberculate; postocular region of head with long erect setae; membrane with a large dark macula medially.

Measurements. Female. Body length 5.76. Head length 1.20, width 1.14, preocular distance 0.42, postocular distance 0.22. interocular distance 0.52, interocellar distance 0.30. Antennal length: Scape 0.52, pedicel 0.91, basiflagellomere 0.83, distiflagellomere 1.17. Labial segment lengths: I 0.73, II 0.81, III 0.57, IV 0.42. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.70, width 1.00; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.56, width 1.59.

Material examined. • ♀, Guyane [French Guiana], Itoupé: vitre, 570 m., 24-III-2010, SEA/G leg. (MNHN).

Remarks. This species was known only from the male holotype collected in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This first record of a female from French Guiana extends its distribution much farther to the north.

Dushinckanus camelopardus Harrington, 1987

Figs 1D, 5

Diagnosis (Fig. 1D). Preocular region of head longer than interocular distance; buccular juncture V-shaped, close to labial insertion, extending into a faint carina; vertex somewhat depressed just before ocelli; ocelli prominent, tuberculate, and antero-laterally directed, located just at level of posterior margin of eyes; distance from eye to ocellus subequal to interocellar distance; jugum and gena forming a ridge-like carina more conspicuous in the male; distiflagellomere uniformly colored, and subequal in length to basiflagellomere. Profemur with at most two or three minute spines subapically. Seventh connexival segment of males ending in a short spine-like projection; seventh abdominal tergum slightly convex posteriorly; abdomen with a faint carina along midline, ending in a short spine-like projection at the seventh sternum.

Description of male genitalia. Pygophore (Fig. 5A, B) dorsal aperture horizontal in lateral view, ventral posterior margin convex in lateral view. Parameres: as fig. 5D, E. Aedeagus (Fig. 5C) with small spines posteriorly to the ejaculatory reservoir.

***Measurements*. Male.** Body length 8.60. Head length 1.95, width 1.29, preocular distance 0.66, postocular distance 0.75, interocular distance 0.50, interocellar distance 0.18. Antennal length: Scape 1.00, pedicel 1.80, basiflagellomere 1.75, distiflagellomere 1.70. Labial segment lengths: I 1.20, II absent, III absent, IV absent. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.90, width 1.10; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.80, width 1.80.

Female (n = 2). Body length 8.30/9.30. Head length 2.00/2.05, width 1.26/1.32, preocular distance 0.74/0.75, postocular distance 0.75/0.80. interocular distance 0.47/0.50, interocellar distance 0.18/0.20. Antennal length: Scape 0.95/1.10, pedicel 1.50/1.75, basiflagellomere 1.45/1.60, distiflagellomere 1.55/1.65. Labial segment lengths: I 1.20/1.25, II 1.15/absent, III 1.05/absent, IV 0.55/absent. Anterior pronotal lobe length (including collar) 0.85/1.00, width 1.05/1.20; posterior pronotal lobe length 0.70/0.80, width 1.70/1.90.

Material examined. • ♀, Guayana Francesa, Mitaraka, 13-III-2015, automatic light trap (pink) (polytrap lumineux avec rampe LED 7.2 w, 5000K) (MLP he-18510); • ♂, ♀, Guyane Française, Saül, Belvédère, X-2010, SEAG leg., Museum Paris (MNHN).

Remarks. This species was described from a single female from Coca, Ecuador; here we study additional specimens, including a male and females from French Guiana that extend its distribution to northeastern South America.

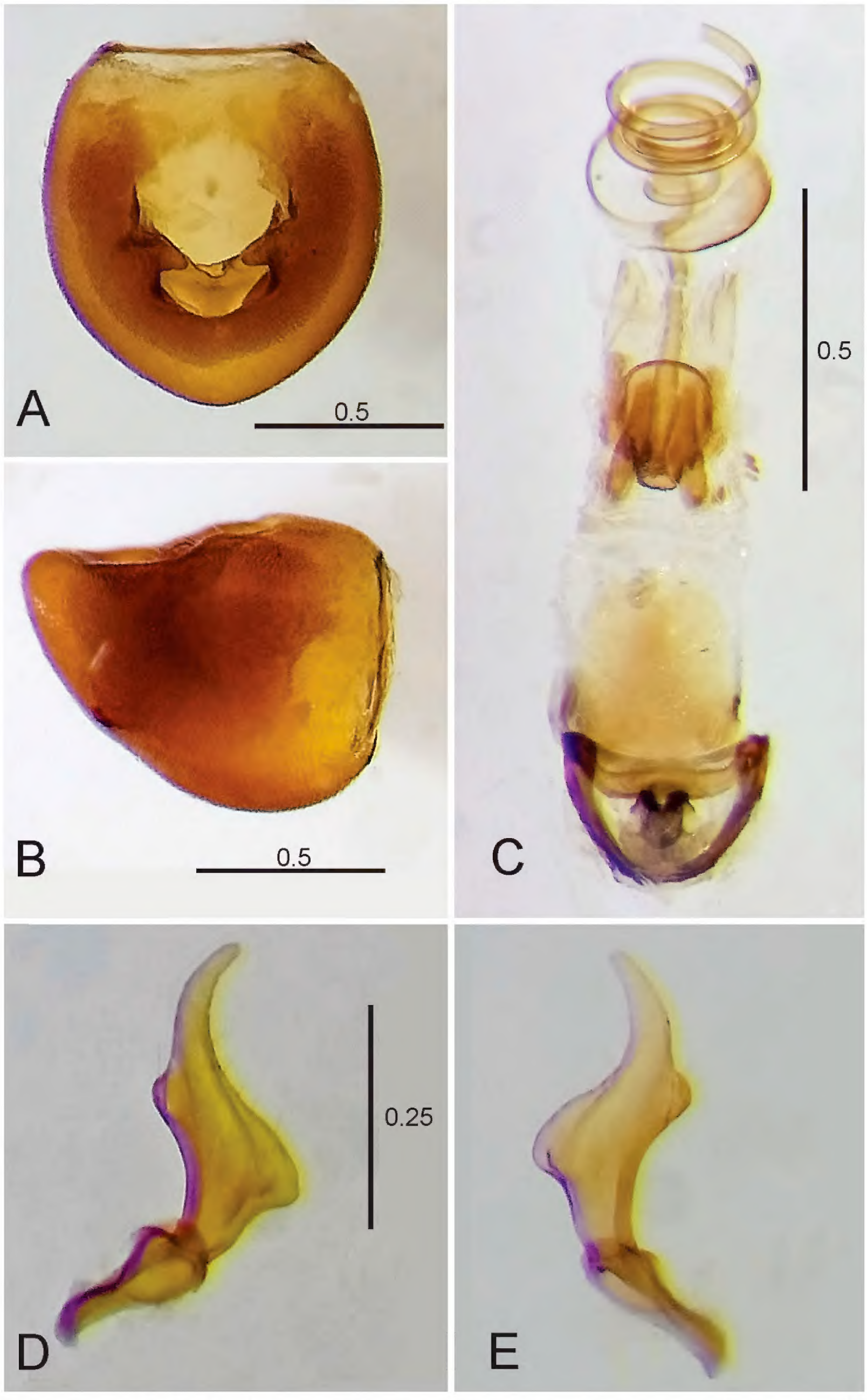

Figure 5. *Dushinckanus camelopardus* Harrington, 1987, male genitalia. **A.** Pygophore, dorsal view; **B.** Pygophore, lateral view; **C.** Aedeagus; **D.** Right paramere, inner view; **E.** Right paramere, outer view.

Key to species of *Dushinckanus*

1 Head elongate, postocular region longer than interocular distance 2
– Head shorter, postocular region shorter than interocular distance 6
2 Ocelli large, interocellar width subequal to ocellar diameter ..... *D. ocellatus*
– Ocelli smaller, interocellar width clearly greater than ocellar diameter 3
3 Posterior pronotal lobe with a distinct, narrow, continuous, yellow, transverse band on anterior half; pedicel orange, paler than rest of segments which are uniformly dark ..... *D. inermibus*
– Posterior pronotal lobe and antenna with different coloration pattern 4
4 Distiflagellomere with a broad, subbasal, diffuse pale band (Fig. 1A); dorsal margin of pygophore strongly declivent posteriorly (Fig. 2B), dorsal aperture with subquadrangular parandria (Fig. 2A) ..... *D. albocinctus* sp. nov.
– Distiflagellomere uniformly colored (Fig. 1B, D); dorsal margin of pygophore not strongly declivent posteriorly, dorsal aperture with rounded parandria (Fig. 3A) 5
5 Distance from eye to ocellus subequal to interocellar distance; seventh abdominal tergum of males convex posteriorly; dorsal margin of pygophore not declivent posteriorly (Fig. 5B) ..... *D. camelopardus*
– Distance from eye to ocellus half the interocellar distance; seventh abdominal tergum of males straight posteriorly; dorsal margin of pygophore slightly declivent posteriorly (Fig. 3B) ..... *D. brailovskyi* sp. nov.
6 Pronotum, scutellum, and hemelytra with numerous, long, semierect setae 7
– Pronotum, scutellum, and hemelytra with only short, sparse setae 8
7 Ocelli little separated; interocellar width four times the ocellar diameter; basi- and distiflagellomeres appearing somewhat incrassate with dense, black, bristle-like setae; labium long, reaching mesocoxae ..... *D. crassicornis*
– Ocelli widely separated; interocellar width eight times the ocellar diameter; basi- and distiflagellomeres without dense, black, bristle-like setae; labium short, reaching procoxae ..... *D. riegeri*
8 Both, pedicel and basiflagellomere shorter than head width; ocelli not tuberculate; postocular region of head with long erect setae; membrane with a large dark macula medially ..... *D. ashlocki*
– Both, pedicel and basiflagellomere longer than head width; ocelli tuberculate; postocular region of head without long erect setae; membrane without a large dark macula medially (Fig. 1C) ..... *D. ocellatoides* sp. nov.

Discussion

The most conspicuous characters to identify the species of the genus *Dushinckanus* are the elongate postocular region of the head that is always longer than the interocellar distance, and the slender profemur bearing a few minute spines. As noted by Harrington (1987), the tuberculate ocelli –postulated as a diagnostic character by Brailovsky (1979)– show the extreme condition of the type species *D. ocellatus*, but this character varies considerably among the species in the genus, with some not tuberculate at all. The analysis of the male genitalia of *D. camelopardus* and the three new species here described show similar characteristics: aedeagi with a pair of slightly sclerotized lobes and small spines on conjunctiva, excepting the new species *D. albocinctus*, which lacks any spines.

The strongly incrassate and heavily spinose profemora of *D. riegeri* raise doubts about its generic placement, but with no further evidence than the description and illustrations provided by Baena (2014) we maintain its position in the genus.

The species of *Dushinckanus* also exhibit variation in the shape and length of the head, from a dome-like postocular region of the head abruptly constricted into a short and rounded neck as in *D. crassicornis* and *D. ashlocki*, to slenderer heads where the postocular region is slanted gradually into a slender neck as in *D. camelopardus*.

Head length variation at low taxonomic levels appears to be rare in insects, with exceptions among Heteroptera in the minute litter bug genus *Nannocoris* Reuter, 1891 and in the seed bug genus *Myodocha* (Frankenberg et al. 2018). In this work, the authors showed that head elongation is due to modifications of different regions of the head in different clades of *Nannocoris* and hypothesized that head elongation and reduction occurred separately in several species groups. They also point out that these modifications may be driven by ecological factors, possibly tied to prey capture or feeding mechanisms. Most rhyparochromids feed on mature seeds (except members of the Cleradini which feed on vertebrate blood) and have a broad range of feeding habits (Henry et al. 2015). Among the Myodochini, species of the Neotropical genera *Myodocha*, *Pephysena* Distant, 1893 and *Dushinckanus* show different degrees of head elongation, with modifications involving the postocular region of head, but also the preocular region in the latter two genera. Cervantes and Gámez-Virués (2005) reported nymphs and adults of *Myodocha intermedia* Distant, 1893 and *M. unispinosa* Stål, 1874 running on ground vegetation and feeding on fallen fruits of *Ficus* species, but nothing else is known about the biology of *Dushinckanus* species.

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